

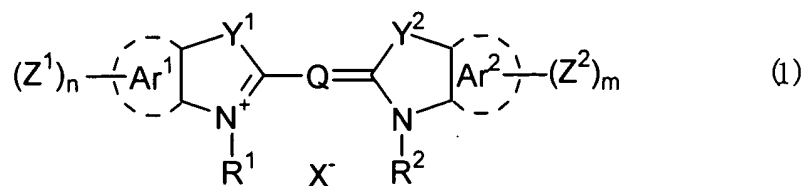
**AMENDED CLAIM SET:**

1. (currently amended) A presensitized plate comprised of a support having thereon, in order:

an undercoat layer containing a compound having a polymerizable group on the molecule, wherein the compound having a polymerizable group on the molecule also has on the molecule an ethylene oxide group; and

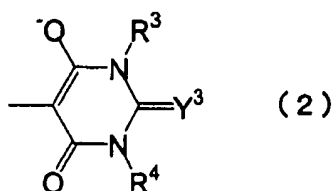
an image recording layer which includes: an infrared absorber (A) that is a cyanine dye having at least one fused ring comprised of a nitrogen-containing heterocycle in combination with an aromatic ring or a second heterocycle, and having on the aromatic ring or second heterocycle an electron-withdrawing group or a heavy atom-containing group, a radical generator (B), and a radical-polymerizable compound (C), and which is removable with printing ink and/or dampening water.

2. (previously presented) The presensitized plate according to claim 1, wherein the infrared absorber (A) is a compound of formula (1) below:



wherein in the formula (1),  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are each independently a hydrocarbon group of up to 20 carbons which may be substituted,  $Ar^1$  and  $Ar^2$  are each independently an aromatic hydrocarbon group or a heterocyclic group which may be substituted,  $Y^1$  and  $Y^2$  are each independently a sulfur atom, an oxygen atom, a selenium atom, a dialkylmethylene group of up to 12 carbons or a  $-CH=CH-$  group,  $Z^1$  and  $Z^2$  are each substituents selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbon groups, oxy groups, electron-withdrawing groups and heavy atom-containing groups, at least one of  $Z^1$  and  $Z^2$  being an electron-withdrawing group or a heavy atom-containing group, wherein the letters n and m each represent 0 or a higher integer, with the proviso that the sum of n and m is at least 1,

Q is a pentamethine group or a heptamethine group which may be substituted with a member selected from the group consisting of alkoxy, aryloxy, alkylthio, arylthio, dialkylamino, diarylamino, halogen atoms, alkyl, aralkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, oxy, iminium bases and substituents of formula (2) below; or may have a cyclohexene, cyclopentene or cyclobutene ring containing three connected methine chains,



wherein in the formula (2),  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  are each independently a hydrogen atom, an alkyl of 1 to 8 carbons or an aryl of 6 to 10 carbons; and  $Y^3$  is an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom, and

X<sup>-</sup> is a counteranion that exists in cases where charge neutralization is required.

3. (cancelled)

4. – 7. (cancelled).

8. – 11. (cancelled).

12. (currently amended) A lithographic printing method which includes the steps of imagewise exposing with an infrared laser ~~the~~ a presensitized plate ~~according to claim 1~~ comprised of a support having thereon an image recording layer which includes: an infrared absorber (A) that is a cyanine dye having at least one fused ring comprised of a nitrogen-containing heterocycle in combination with an aromatic ring or a second heterocycle, and having on the aromatic ring or second heterocycle an electron-withdrawing group or a heavy atom-containing group, a radical generator (B), and a radical-polymerizable compound (C), and which is removable with printing ink and/or dampening water, which ~~has the~~ image recording layer ~~that~~ is infrared imageable, supplying an aqueous component and an oil-based ink to the exposed plate so as to remove unexposed areas of the image recording layer, and printing.

13. (previously presented) A lithographic printing method which includes the steps of imagewise exposing with an infrared laser a presensitized plate which has an image recording

layer that is infrared imageable, supplying an aqueous component and an oil-based ink to the exposed plate so as to remove unexposed areas of the image recording layer, and printing,

wherein the presensitized plate is comprised of a support having thereon an image recording layer which includes:

an infrared absorber (A) having an oxidation potential of at most 0.45 V (vs. SCE),

a radical generator (B), and

a radical-polymerizable compound (C),

and which is removable with printing ink and/or dampening water.

14. (original) The lithographic printing method according to claim 12, wherein the presensitized plate is mounted on a printing press prior to the imagewise exposure with an infrared laser.

15. (original) The lithographic printing method according to claim 13, wherein the presensitized plate is mounted on a printing press prior to the imagewise exposure with an infrared laser.

16. (original) The lithographic printing method according to claim 12, wherein the presensitized plate is mounted on a printing press following imagewise exposure with an infrared laser and before the supply of aqueous components and oil-based ink.

17. (original) The lithographic printing method according to claim 13, wherein the presensitized plate is mounted on a printing press following imagewise exposure with an infrared laser and before the supply of aqueous components and oil-based ink.

18. (currently amended) The presensitized plate according to claim ~~2, 7, comprised of a~~ support ~~having thereon an image recording layer which includes: an~~ wherein the infrared absorber (A) ~~having~~ has an oxidation potential of at most 0.45 V (vs. SCE), ~~a radical generator (B), and a radical polymerizable compound (C), and which is removable with printing ink and/or dampening water, wherein at least some of the infrared absorber (A), radical generator (B) and radical polymerizable compound (C) is microencapsulated.~~

19. & 20. (cancelled).